



## Rewilding Officer (Ecologist)

**Position:** Rewilding Officer

**Area:** Swedish Lapland

**Reporting to:** Team Leader

**Location:** Rewilding Office in Umeå, Sweden

**Type of contract:** Permanent position, full time, with a 6-month probationary period.

**Salary:** Competitive, depending on experience and skills.

The nongovernmental organisation Rewilding Sweden is a Swedish partner of the European initiative Rewilding Europe with local teams in 13 countries. Our vision is a future where nature's own processes increasingly shape landscapes, contributing to health, food, clean air and clean water. We also want our children and grandchildren, like our ancestors, to marvel at the grandeur of the wilderness and find connection and deeper meaning in it. That's why we see it as our shared responsibility to treat nature as a heritage – something we have a duty to pass on to future generations in the best possible condition.

Our organisation works primarily in two demonstration areas in the northern Swedish Lapland region – the Vindelälven-Juhtátahkka Biosphere Reserve and the Råne River Valley. The landscapes contain various types of ecoregions and conditions; coniferous forests, peatlands and rivers bordering the Baltic Sea in the east and mountains in the west. However, despite sometimes described as Europe's largest untamed landscape, Swedish Lapland have been intensively managed for forestry, with clear-cutting and plantations, resulting in loss of biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and recreational values. The majority of the rivers have historically been channelised due to logging and today many have been exploited for hydropower. Vast areas of peatland and forests have been drained by intensive ditching.

Rewilding Sweden is working to restore those ecosystems by focusing on revitalising nature's own processes. A large part of that comes down to restoring living conditions for nature's keystone species (which through their functions create the living conditions for many more) – in forests, wetlands, and rivers. Beyond this ecological part of rewilding, our work is also much about connecting with local people and building economies to support a wilder nature. One of many ways in which we do this, is by collaborating with local indigenous Sami villages to restore blue-green corridors along the river valleys to facilitate natural biodiversity and reindeer grazing. Through the partnership with Rewilding Europe, we have the tools to provide both financial and strategic support for new nature-based business ideas, including funding reintroduction of keystone species and rewilding of nature by external organisations that share our values.

### **Main role and responsibilities**

The Rewilding Officer's main role is to oversee the implementation of Rewilding Sweden's rewilding activities from a technical as well as administrative and financial point of view. This is critical to the efficient and proper management of donor-funded activities as well as achieving the overall objectives and intended impacts of Rewilding Sweden in the landscape in which they are active. The officer's scope of work will be focused around restoring forest landscapes, including peatland, wetlands and rivers, and their wildlife – entire 'waterscapes' as we call them. Environmental education and outreach activities will also be important.

## **Other key responsibilities for the Rewilding Officer include:**

### *Organisational development and supporting the Team Leader*

- Working closely with the Team Leader to define and revise a work-plan and timeline to achieve Rewilding Sweden's strategy for rewilding, with a particular emphasis on forest landscapes in Swedish Lapland, and maintaining regular updates on the outcomes of meetings through minutes and activity reports.
- Working in close collaboration with the Team Leader to identify and secure local rewilding, business and communication opportunities.
- Facilitating and support the Team Leader with the contacts to local authorities, institutions and partners.
- Assisting the Team Leader in the development of grant proposals, strategies, objectives, activities, work-plans, budgets as well as conceptual development of new rewilding projects.
- Very active engagement and relationship building with local stakeholders and partners to secure local support for rewilding and the implementation of the work-plan.
- Performing other duties as assigned by the Team Leader.

### *Organising, planning and executing rewilding projects*

- Developing the planning and execution of rewilding actions carried out by Rewilding Sweden.
- Leading a project, participating in rewilding actions on ground, have responsibility for project budgets, project reporting to donors, and report on project progress to Team Leader.
- Making local arrangements for field trips, photo missions, media trips, local meetings, workshops and seminars as well as other necessary administrative arrangements linked to projects.
- Arranging training courses, guided tours and seminars.

### *Monitoring and following up rewilding activities*

- Developing and implementing a monitoring programme of both ecological processes in regard to our restoration/rewilding activities as well as socio-economic indicators in the intervention areas.
  - Creating a database and ensure that the data collected is stored correctly.
  - Managing and processing data in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
  - Working together with Rewilding Europe's GIS Data Manager for the management and continuous updating of the GIS database.

### *Working with the European team*

- Working with Rewilding Europe's Central Team to maximize their input, use lessons learned and ensure linkages with local activities.
- Monitoring and reporting on rewilding activities and providing information on the outcomes for communication and fundraising activities by the Central Team.
- Ensuring provisions of regular updates on subjects of importance to Rewilding Europe (e.g., news, stories, and management plans & strategies, joint fund-raising etc.).

## **Profile**

### *Desired qualifications:*

- University degree, ideally in the field of ecology, bio-geoscience, natural resource management, conservation, wildlife ecology or related fields.
- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in the conservation sector or related fields – as ecologist at consultancy firm, at a County Administrative Board, Municipality or similar.
- Proven experience in the implementation of monitoring and data collection programmes.
- Proven experience in the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial analysis.
- Experience in river and forest restoration.

### *Desired skills and competencies:*

- Good knowledge of the fauna, flora and habitats of the Nordic taiga region.
- Knowledge and understanding about the Sami culture, reindeer ecology, and associated challenges.
- Results-oriented, proactive, with a hands-on approach, and with the ability to work independently.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Swedish and English.
- Passionate and optimistic about the potential for rewilding nature in Sweden.
- Available to travel to occasionally live in the work area, especially during field season (June–October).
- Driving license and willing to move around the area independently.
- Proven experience in project management with the ability to design work-plans, handle and report budgets, and meet deadlines.
- Attention for detail, aesthetics and high-quality deliverables.

### **What we offer:**

- A competitive salary (depending on educational level and professional experience).
- The opportunity to make a difference.
- Challenging and fulfilling work in one of the most exciting ecological regions in Europe.
- A friendly and highly professional working environment in an international context.
- Diverse tasks and independent working style.
- A great learning environment.

### **How to apply?**

Please send a CV and a motivation letter to [jobs@rewilding-sweden.com](mailto:jobs@rewilding-sweden.com) by 27 September 2024.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Henrik Persson:

[henrik.persson@rewilding-sweden.com](mailto:henrik.persson@rewilding-sweden.com)